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14 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: All DD/P Senior Training Officers  
All DD/P Branch Chiefs

SUBJECT : Senior Operations Seminar

1. The Office of Training is currently exploring the desirability of organizing a Senior Operations Seminar for mid-career DD/P operations officers. Candidates for the Seminar would be chosen by each Division from among officers, with Field experience, in the GS-13 to GS-15 range.

2. The proposed Seminar is predicated on the belief that the education of the operations officer is a continuing task and that achievement and maintenance of a high order of professionalism requires a re-thinking of past knowledge and exposure to the latest cumulative experience of the Clandestine Services. The Seminar would provide an interlude in which experienced officers at an appropriate juncture in their careers can sharpen disused skills, update their knowledge on methods and techniques, gain insight into activities and operating conditions outside their own immediate ken, and exchange the lessons of their own direct experience. The primary purpose of the Seminar is to afford an opportunity to explore specific operational problems in depth with senior and authoritative DD/P officers. It would cut across functional FI/CI/CA lines and devote special attention to the USSR and China targets.

3. OTR is not anxious merely to add another course to its Catalogue of offerings, but rather to devise a seminar responsive to DD/P needs not currently being met by other training. In order to test whether the perceived gap in training really exists and also to test assumptions behind current thinking in regard to the Seminar, OTR wishes to make a thorough survey of informed opinion among DD/P officers. To this end, Chief Instructor in the OTR Operations School, plans to discuss the proposed Seminar with a number of officers in your Division. He is prepared to explain the rationale behind the proposal more fully and, even more important, to solicit the views of those being interviewed. Since the best training can be formulated only in conjunction with experienced and interested DD/P officers, your cooperation in this survey is urged.

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